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So you want to be a Wildlife Biologist?



**WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
INTERMOUNTAIN REGION
OGDEN UTAH**



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If you think a wildlife biologist just hunts, fishes, and lives in a log cabin, think again. Today's wildlife biologist — one of the most important people working on your National Forests — is a manager of the natural habitats for fish, birds, and big game. And his or her work determines not only the quality of life for wildlife, but also the quality of living and recreation for people who enjoy the National Forests. If you want to be a Forest Service wildlife biologist, you'll need to train to be more than a game warden. Interdisciplinary team work is the key.

Cooperation between the federal government and a state's fish and game department is an important part of a day's work. A long-honored agreement makes the states responsible for management of wildlife species while the Forest Service is charged with the

management of the habitat for those species. That habitat consists of food, cover, water, and space. It includes game and nongame species habitats, macroinvertebrate and fish habitats, under the broad heading of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitats. The Endangered Species Act requires that we take particular care not to adversely change or destroy those habitats essential to the survival of species listed as either threatened or endangered.

To carry out this work requires an understanding of ecological principles and the interactions between people and the environment. The wildlife biologist works with many resource management people — timber harvesters, road builders, planners, water storage specialists, rangers, community leaders, and outdoor sports enthusiasts.

Your job in the Intermountain Region

The Intermountain Region's 19 National Forests are located in Idaho, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, California, and Colorado. Those forests, which vary from desert to alpine habitats, house over 700 species of wildlife, including 15 threatened or endangered species. About one-fifth of all big game animals taken from America's National Forests come from the Intermountain Region.

All that presents a big job for the four types of wildlife employees in the Forest Service: aquatic habitat biologist, terrestrial habitat biologist, wildlife planner, and wildlife administrator. The 16 forest supervisors headquarters in the region each employ some of these wildlife experts. Under each headquarters there are several ranger districts, the basic organizational unit in the Forest Service. More and more frequently wildlife biologists are being hired to work at the ranger district level. In addition, the Region Office in Ogden, Utah, employs specialists in aquatic ecology, terrestrial ecology, endangered and threatened species, animal control, animal relationships, anadromous fisheries, and planning and budgeting.



Will you be prepared?

Competition for Forest Service wildlife jobs demands that you prepare yourself to be the most qualified applicant. In recent years, the minimum requirement has consisted of at least a master's degree from an accredited college or university. In some cases, we have hired Ph.D. holders.

If you are interested in terrestrial habitat management, we suggest you pursue one degree in wildlife management and a second degree — bachelor's or master's — in either fisheries management, range management, forestry, or ecology.

If you want to be an aquatic habitat biologist, we suggest a bachelor's in fisheries management with a master's in forestry, wildlife, hydrology, watershed management, or range management.

If you are still in high school and want a jump in preparing yourself, we suggest you take as many science courses as possible, as well as math and the traditional courses. Then early in your college years we suggest you begin to concentrate on course work emphasizing those subjects listed below.

Basic ecology	Ornithology	Watershed management	Herpetology
Plant ecology	Limnology	Management of nongame animals	Recreation
Animal ecology	Zoology	Habitat management and improvement	Fire behavior and management
Plant taxonomy and systematics	Botany	Waterfowl management	Computer use
River basin management	Physiology	Cold water fisheries	Land planning
Management of big game	Animal and plant physiology	Warm water fisheries	Sociology
Wildlife management principles	Range management	Management of furbearers	Economics
Ichthyology	Silviculture	Waterfowl	Political science
Mammalogy	Timber management	Upland game	Communication
	Geology and minerals	Big game	Technical writing
	Soils		

While it isn't necessary to take all these courses, each will help prepare you for your new position. Upon completing your education, obtain a rating from the Office of Personnel Management by filling out the following forms: SF 171, Card Form 5001-BC, and college transcripts. Contact:

Office of Personnel Management

1220 S.W. 3rd Street or
Portland, Oregon 97204

1845 Sherman Street
Denver Colorado 80203

Request a rating on the Life Science Series for Wildlife or Fisheries Biologist.

Want more information?

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If you want more information about the wildlife biologist's job or if you want to know how to apply, write to the personnel office of your nearest National Forest in the Intermountain Region.

Ashley National Forest
437 East Main
Vernal, Utah 84078

Boise National Forest
1075 Park Boulevard
Boise, Idaho 83706

Bridger-Teton National Forest
Forest Service Building
340 North Cache
Jackson, Wyoming 83001

Caribou National Forest
250 South 4th Avenue
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

Challis National Forest
Challis, Idaho 83226

Dixie National Forest
82 North 100 East
Cedar City, Utah 84720

Fishlake National Forest
170 North Main Street
Richfield, Utah 84701

Humboldt National Forest
976 Mountain City Highway
Elko, Nevada 89801

Manti-LaSal National Forest
350 East Main Street
Price, Utah 84501

Payette National Forest
P.O. Box 1026
McCall, Idaho 83638

Salmon National Forest
Forest Service Building
P.O. Box 729
Salmon, Idaho 83467

Sawtooth National Forest
1525 Addison Avenue East
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

Targhee National Forest
420 North Bridge Street
St. Anthony, Idaho 83445

Toiyabe National Forest
111 North Virginia Street
Room 601
Reno, Nevada 89501

Uinta National Forest
88 West 100 North
Provo, Utah 84601

Wasatch National Forest
8226 Federal Building
125 South State Street
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111



The Forest Service offers you . . .

- Equal employment opportunities
- Creative, challenging work
- Unparalleled outdoor work environment
- On-the-job training by recognized authorities in natural resource management, planning, and research
- Opportunity to gain broad experience in your chosen field
- A promotion policy that assures opportunity for advancement
- Advantages of Federal Civil Service employment



